

THE WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK: *STRYMONIDIA W-ALBUM* KNOCH IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT. — I discovered a small colony of this butterfly on the cliffs of W. Wight in the last week of July 1981. I boxed six of the insects in an hour, and four or five others were still flying around the tops of some young wych elm. All six were released at the end of the day, two of them were females. Although this was a small colony, the amount of young wych elm in the area was encouraging. I believe it is many years since *w-album* was last seen in the Isle of Wight, and that this is a new locality for it on the Island. — F. H. CLOUTER, Helice, Glendale Road, Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent.

THE WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK: *STRYMONIDEA W-ALBUM* KNOCH IN THE ISLE OF THANET. — I noted a single example of this butterfly at Watchester Lane, Minster, East Kent, on the 11th August 1981. No others were seen despite a thorough search on several occasions. Mr. M. Harman, the game keeper at Quex Park, tells me the butterfly has appeared in the park in varying numbers most seasons, and that he first became aware of it there in 1976 when a hedge of bramble blossom was seen to be swarming with them, though none was seen in 1981. — C. J. RANDELL, "Driftwood", The Old Coastguards, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 0NH.

EXCEPTIONAL NUMBERS OF THE CLOUDED YELLOW: *COLIAS CROCEUS* GEOFF. IN WARWICKSHIRE IN 1981 — On August 2, I walked along the banks of the River Avon between the villages of Charlecote and Wasperton. To my surprise a male *croceus* shot quickly over a hawthorn hedge from some steep flowery slopes created from old gravel pit workings. On entering this area I immediately saw several more *croceus* flying rapidly up and down the rough slopes. Proceeding further, the butterfly became even more abundant. It was in mint condition, having obviously just emerged in the hot sun. After two hours I had seen over 70 individuals including three ab. *helice*. A very fresh *Cynthia cardui* L.: Painted Lady was also seen.

The locality was visited several times during the summer and autumn with the following results. August 3: 10 observed in morning; 22 in afternoon, including one *helice*. August 4: 50 in afternoon (A. Gardner). August 10: Over 50 observed in one hour during the afternoon, including one *helice*; also, two *cardui* and one *Vanessa atalanta* L.: Red Admiral. August 11: Over 70 observed in one hour during afternoon, including one *helice* and one *cardui*. August 12: Over 40 observed in one hour during morning; one male was found *drying its wings on a clover stem above its empty pupa case*. August 16: over 50 seen in afternoon. August 17: Over 30 seen in afternoon. August 23: 12 seen, mainly worn (A. Gardner). August 24: One male *croceus* in my garden at Charlecote, and the only one seen in the village, which is only a mile from the gravel pits. September 6: Only one worn male seen. September 13: Only one worn male seen. After this the weather deteriorated, becoming cold and unsettled with rain and so proved fatal for any chance of another brood. October 4: Sunny afternoon, no *croceus*, however,

one *atalanta* seen; also, one perfect male *Rhodometra sacraria* L.: Vestal and one *Heliothis peltigera* D. & S.: Bordered Straw were flushed from the thick clover. Several m.v. lights at this locality that night produced no further migrants. I feel it is strange that these migrant species arrived within a mile of my home, confined themselves to this small area and that relatively few sightings were recorded in more southerly parts of England. — D. C. G. BROWN, Jacksons Farmhouse, 25 Charlecote Nr. Warwick.

THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY: NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA L. IN 1981. — The Rev. David Agassiz suggested that it might be of interest to record that I observed a Camberwell Beauty in my garden here on the 15th August 1981. — R. SMITH, 41, South Park Hill Road, South Croydon, Surrey.

SCOTTISH DRAGONFLIES: A CORRECTION. — In volume 92, p. 282, I made some smug remarks about photographing female *Aeshna caerulea* in various places in Scotland in 1968. I regret to say that re-examination of the prints shows that all were *Aeshna juncea*, and apologise for the error. I have notified the organiser of the National Recording Scheme for Odonata in detail.

My little story was further spoilt by a neat misprint. "It was not quite cool" subtly suggests that the episode was almost passionate. The text should have read "It was now quite cool" (with the clouding of the sun), emphasising the susceptibility of the insects to temperature change. — C. F. COWAN, 4 Thornfield Terrace, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7DR.

BOMOLOCHA FONTIS THUNB. AND SCHRANKIA COSTAESTRIGALIS STEPH. (LEP.: PLUSIIDAE) IN N. W. KENT. — Single specimens of these two species were unexpected visitors to the m/v light trap in my garden at Dartford on July 8th and July 13th, 1981, respectively. *B. fontis* has not been recorded previously from N. W. Kent. Chalmers-Hunt (*Lep. of Kent*) stated that the species is scarce and local in Kent, and has undoubtedly decreased in those areas where there has been a reduction of bilberry. However, recently the insect has been noted on several occasions in the woods of S.E. Kent where bilberry is absent, and here it is presumed attached to an alternative larval foodplant. The origin of the Dartford specimen is at present a matter for conjecture; bilberry is not present in the area.

*S. costaestrigalis* was a resident of N. W. Kent, the last record being of fourteen specimens seen at Chislehurst in 1910, although not far to the east of the area it was not uncommon at Springhead, near Northfleet, in 1912 and 1913 (Chalmers-Hunt, *Lep. of Kent*). However, it is interesting to note that six specimens have been seen in recent years in N. E. Surrey (L. and K. Evans *A Survey of the Macro-lepidoptera of Croydon and N. E. Surrey*). Despite N. W. Kent being a very well-worked district, *S. costaestrigalis* is an insect easily overlooked, and with apparently suitable habitats still existing in the area, it seems probable that the Dartford specimen might have originated locally. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.